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# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

DECEMBER • 1941



PUBLISHED BY THE SIERRA CLUB • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

## SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

VOLUME XXVI • NUMBER 6



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Published bimonthly by the Sierra Club, 220 Bush Street, San Francisco, California. Annual dues are \$4.00 (first year \$8.00), of which \$1.00 is for subscription to Sierra Club Bulletin. Entered as second-class matter at Post Office, San Francisco, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Contributions on subjects of interest to Sierra Club members are welcome, and should be sent to the Editorial Board. Deadline for the April number is April 15.

FRANCIS P. FARQUHAR, *Editor*

DAVID R. BROWER, *Associate Editor*

Weldon F. Heald, Charlotte Mauk, Harriet Parsons,

Barbara Norris, Marion R. Parsons, William

B. Rice, Blanche Stallings

THE COVER.—Rime-covered pines near Donner Summit, a familiar January scene. By Charles W. Phillips.

## EDITOR'S MISCELLANY

*Lunn.* This being the time of year for a winter sports number of the *Bulletin*, it is appropriate to devote this department to the writings of a man whose name is best known among skiers—Arnold Lunn, author, editor, skier, lecturer, philosopher. The quotations, taken from his "Forty Years of Skiing" in the current *British Ski Year Book* (out on time in spite of the war), demonstrate that it is possible to keep a sense of humor and perspective—perhaps these are synonyms—in the midst of the worst the war can bring.

\* \* \*

*Hyacinths.* "The cult of ordinariness is one of the factors which has helped us through these extraordinary times. A friend of mine observed that the neighboring house had been set on fire during a recent 'Blitz.' She turned

the garden hose on to the flames. From an open window came a voice, her mother's, 'Mind the hyacinths, dear.'"

\* \* \*

*Hazard.* "The spirit of Drake continuing his game of bowls after the Armada had been sighted may have inspired a by-law recently adopted by a golf club in a London suburb. 'If a ball is destroyed or removed by enemy action, another ball may be dropped but not nearer the hole than the crater.'"

\* \* \*

*Bouquet.* "As a veteran ski-mountaineer, I envy the young skiers of America. To-day every skiable Alpine peak has been climbed, every snow pass crossed, but the vast ranges of the American Continent are still virgin ground. These opportunities are far greater than those which I enjoyed when, as a boy, I made one of the early ski traverses of the Oberland glaciers.

"Every effort should be made by the authorities to encourage ski exploration. The Sierra Club of California has set a good example by instituting a really tough ski-mountaineering test."

\* \* \*

*Variety.* Followers of the writings of Arnold Lunn are well aware—and happily—that when they pick up something he has written of skiing or mountaineering, it will not be limited to the mere scope of the chosen title. *Year Book* readers will accordingly not be surprised to find that the current part of "Forty Years of Skiing" describes, in addition to hyacinths and by-laws, Lunn's return trip across the submarine-infested Atlantic as a civilian aboard a naval vessel:

"Every escort vessel was anxious to be the first to go into action, and we were all a little envious when another escort dropped two depth charges, but our wounded *amour propre* was pacified when a perplexed and indignant whale suddenly came to the surface puffing out its frantic disclaimer of Nazi sympathies.

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We resolved, there and then, against the weight of evidence perhaps, that our sister ship had depth-charged an innocent sea monster. Our signal 'Have you had good fishing?'

met with a stiff response. 'Repeat word after good.' "

The 1941 *British Ski Year Book* has joined the twenty-one previous issues in the rooms.

D. R. B.

## Where Can We Go Now?

Defense needs, particularly along the Pacific Coast and in the high mountain regions of California near railroads, transcontinental highways, and hydroelectric plants, have called for immediate, temporary closing of some of the favorite outdoor haunts of club members.

The situation is too new and too critical for people whose hobby is largely outdoor recreation, be it hiking, climbing, or skiing, to be able to get authentic information with respect to just where, near defense areas, they may or may not go. Civilian and governmental authorities are not yet in a position to make definite statements.

However, it has been encouraging to me to find, during conversations with some of the officials of defense agencies, a general understanding that, in the interest of maintaining civilian morale, outdoor recreational activities should be continued as fully as is consistent with defense necessities.

**Marin County.**—The San Francisco Bay Chapter has an acute problem to contend with, for three of the four hikes scheduled

for December were to be in areas in Marin County, now closed because of the emergency. These and many other trips must be replanned. Chapter representatives have therefore been selected who will keep in close touch with authorities, so that the schedule committee and the club office may give out current information.

**Donner Summit Region.**—Wild rumors that U. S. Highway 40 was to be closed to civilian skiing led me to make inquiries of the Forest Service. Forest officials were found to be working with Army and Southern Pacific authorities to arrange for maximum civilian use of favorite ski terrains under war conditions, and at this date (December 20) the outlook is extremely encouraging.

So for those who wonder where they can go now we counsel patience while all these things are being worked out—and above all we urge complete respect for "No Trespassing" signs and for the commands of sentries, peace officers, and private property guards.

ARTHUR H. BLAKE

## Plans for Clair Tappaan Lodge

With our country at war, the Sierra Club must use its resources in the manner in which they may best aid the national defense. This means that until further notice Clair Tappaan Lodge will be operated as has already been planned, to provide recreational facilities for the members and to serve as a base for training of skiers in the ways of ski moun-

taineering and in the program of the National Ski Patrol.

There will be more need than ever before for respite from the tensions of the city, and hence the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee believes it is in the interest of civilian morale for us to continue, so far as possible, to operate the facilities as ski headquarters for our members.

LEWIS F. CLARK, *Chairman*

## Tests Proposed for Mountain Regiment Applicants

The letter of December 8 from the Sierra Club directors to all club members, with enclosures relating to the 87th Infantry Mountain Regiment (Reinforced), has brought encouraging results, but not yet all that could be hoped for. Each member can do a service to the country by seeing to it that the questionnaire he received does not lie idle. Additional questionnaires are available.

Several applicants for the regiment, who have not passed any of the prescribed ski tests, have asked where and how, in the short time

available, they may have their skiing ability examined. The test committee proposes that skiers, in and out of the club, who cannot take the full test, but who feel that their ability is reasonably close to third class, may arrange to demonstrate that ability to ski-mountaineers or second-class judges at Norden during January. This demonstration will serve as a basis for a letter of recommendation to accompany the application.

It is still best, where possible, that the regular test be passed.

D. R. R.

## Directors Hold Business Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club was held at the Club headquarters Saturday, December 6, 1941. President Starr being absent owing to illness, Vice-President Robinson presided. Present were Directors Adams, Bernays, Brower, Clark, Colby, Dawson, Hildebrand, Huber, Kehrlein, Leonard, Robinson. Director Livermore was absent in the morning but attended the afternoon session. Directors Farquhar, Starr, Tappaan were absent and excused. Also present by invitation were: Honorary Vice-President Duncan McDuffie, Chairman of the Committee on Grazing in Recreational Areas; Arthur H. Blake, Chairman of the High Sierra Trails Committee; A. E. Baldwin, Robert Schallenger, Don M. Woods, Thomas H. Jukes, chairmen of the Southern California, San Francisco Bay, Loma Prieta, and Mother Lode chapters, respectively. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the August *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

Secretary Colby reported the membership as of December 1: Loma Prieta Chapter, 198; Mother Lode Chapter, 100; Riverside Chapter, 56; San Francisco Bay Chapter, 1826; Southern California Chapter, 1358; general, 256. Total, 3794.

Treasurer Huber reported that 1941 expenditures were running about according to the budget. He later presented a tentative budget for 1942. A motion was passed to amend the budget by decreasing the allotment to the Mountain Records Committee to \$25 and by allotting to the Visual Education Committee the sum of \$200 plus the revenues that may be received from showings of the Club's films. The tentative budget as amended was adopted.

### Editorial Board

In Editor Farquhar's absence, Associate Editor Brower reported briefly on plans of the Editorial Board for the 1942 magazine number of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

Richard Leonard and Bestor Robinson brought up the proposal of the National Ski Association to prepare and publish a manual on ski mountaineering. It was voted that the Sierra Club cooperate with the National Ski Association in the preparation of a ski mountaineering manual. A motion was also passed authorizing an appropriation sufficient to cover the mailing to the membership of information regarding the organization by the United States Army of the 87th Infantry

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Mountain Regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington, such information to consist of an explanatory sheet and a questionnaire prepared by the National Ski Patrol System and a letter from the Sierra Club. The entire matter was referred to the Editorial Board to work out further details.

Lewis Clark mentioned the possibility of publishing information about the various Sierra Club lodges and huts, stating that Miss Alice Wieder had prepared material on the lodges controlled by the Southern California Chapter. It was suggested that such material might be published serially in the bimonthly, and later in pamphlet form, and the matter was turned over to the Editorial Board.

### *Special Committees*

Arthur Blake reported that the High Sierra Trails Committee has been concerning itself with the following matters: Trails and bridges, trail camps, maps and information. He hoped the relocation of the Shadow Lake-Reds Meadow Trail and the reconstruction of the Mount Whitney Trail would be completed next summer. He requested an appropriation of \$10 to secure additional maps for use by the committee. Further report on trail camps will be made at the May meeting. Mr. Blake stated he had received word from Superintendent Scoyen that the bridge at the South Fork junction in the Kings Canyon will be rebuilt.

Arthur Blake, Chairman of the Committee on Mountain Sheep, stated that Milton Hildebrand had seen twelve Sierra bighorn north of Mount Tyndall last summer. On the recommendation of Mr. Blake, a motion was passed that the \$50 appropriated at the May 1941 meeting and not used because of the lateness of the season be made available in 1942, such sum, together with other contributions, to be spent under the direction of the California Academy of Sciences for the purpose of making observations of the Sierra bighorn in the High Sierra.

Duncan McDuffie presented a written report on Pack Stock Grazing in California National Parks which will appear in the magazine number of the *Bulletin*. A motion was passed that the report be approved, that copies be transmitted to the Director of the National Park Service, to the Regional Director, and to the superintendents of the national parks in California. The Committee was requested to continue its study and was authorized to communicate directly with the National Park Service officials concerned.

David Brower, Chairman of the Visual Education Committee, reported the completion of a film on skiing, "Skis to the Sky-Land," financed by funds received on showings of "Sky-Land Trails." A motion picture of rock-climbing is planned.

Written reports by Alfred E. Weiler, Chairman of the Library Committee, and Blanche Stallings, Chairman of the Library Subcommittee on Exhibits and Folklore, were read by Secretary Colby. A vote of thanks was given the Library Committee for the splendid work being done by its members, and also to Glen Dawson for his contributions to the library and advice to the committee.

David Brower reported briefly on work of the Committee on Mountain Records and Place Names. The mountain register program will be held in abeyance until alumnism is again available.

Richard Leonard, Chairman of the Outing Committee, reported briefly regarding plans for 1942. A motion was passed that the 1942 contribution of the Outing Account to the Club for its services to the outings, excepting compensation and liability insurance and postage, be set at \$900.

### *Legal Committee*

Secretary Colby reported that the Sierra Club had received a favorable decision in its action in the United States Patent Office opposing the registering of the name "Sierra Club" by a beverage company. Mr. Samuel Herrick

first noticed the application, appeared for the Sierra Club, and advised the Club to continue its opposition when the beverage company tried to withdraw. A final brief was written by Mr. Colby and a favorable decision given by the Examiner of Interferences. A motion was passed that the Sierra Club send a vote of thanks to Dr. Herrick for calling our attention to the matter and for his further assistance. The directors also expressed their thanks to Mr. Colby.

A letter from Raffi Bedayan was read, calling attention to the fact that the Club's name is used by a pickle company. The Secretary was requested to take the matter up with the concern upon advice of the Legal Committee.

Secretary Colby reported that the necessary papers had been prepared and filed with the Secretary of State to extend the life of the Sierra Club from fifty years to perpetual existence. A vote of thanks was given Herbert L. Breed for his legal assistance.

Mr. Colby reported that the bill passed by the State Legislature to provide for staggered terms for the members of the California State Park Commission was vetoed by the Governor. He was authorized to investigate and report on the possibility of a constitutional amendment to accomplish this purpose.

Mr. Bernays reported that the Southern California Chapter would not need reimbursement for additional payment to the secretary in the Los Angeles office on account of overtime just prior to the summer outings.

Written reports submitted by the chapter chairmen were accepted and placed on file.

### *Lodges and Lands*

Lewis Clark reported at length on Shasta, LeConte, and Parsons lodges. Special mention was made of the good start accomplished by Edward Anderson, the custodian, and his wife, in establishing an information bureau for mountaineering at the LeConte Memorial Lodge.

The matter of living quarters for the custodian at Parsons Memorial Lodge was re-

opened. A motion was passed that in its discretion the Lodge Committee might postpone putting into effect the action of the Board previously taken concerning the use of the main building. Albert Duhme's report and letter were referred to the Lodge Committee.

Mr. Blake, Chairman of the Mount Shasta Lands Committee, reported that he had inspected the land on Mount Shasta recently acquired by the Club. He recommended that no hasty action be taken in disposing of unneeded portions of it. The Committee was directed to continue its investigation, particularly of the possibility of exchanging any unneeded portions for land in the Norden area or Echo Summit region.

At the May meeting the Southern California Chapter was authorized to solicit funds to be used by the State Park Commission toward the enlargement of the Anza Desert State Park. Mr. Bernays reported that this was successfully carried out. A resolution was adopted commending Arthur B. Johnson and his committee for the splendid work which they did in raising the funds necessary for the acquisition of additional lands for the enlargement of the Anza Desert State Park.

The matter of authorizing a mountaineering badge for those who have climbed the fourteen 14,000-foot peaks of the Pacific Coast was reintroduced. Director Kehrlein showed the directors a design made by Arthur Johnson. The matter was referred to the Badge Committee (Dawson and Clark) for further report after determining the cost.

Authorization was given the Winter Sports Committee to join the Bay Area Ski Federation, and the southern California division of the Winter Sports Committee to join the Southern California Ski Federation, both affiliations to be in the name of the Sierra Club and without financial obligation.

The following were appointed to act as the Nominating Committee to select names

to be placed in the list of directors. A. May (vice-chairman), L. Breed, D. Mauk, A. Huggins.

The following were appointed to the Election Committee: Neuenburg (chairman), Ella McJames, A. S. T.

It is gratifying to see the efforts of the Anza Chapter in the nearly half-century of its existence. The Anza Chapter were sent to be included in the directory toward the desire of the State.

The State

The National publication as part of the collection with the son, form also chairman on Equipment to the Anza Chapter which largely in determining the allowed for organized Club ski the manu-



to be placed on the ballot at the coming election of directors of the Sierra Club: Edward A. Mayers (chairman), Robert L. Lipman (vice-chairman), Suzanne Allen, Herbert L. Breed, Dorothy Markwad, Charlotte E. Mauk; Alternates: Maren Aune, Dorothy H. Huggins.

The following were appointed Judges of Election to supervise the election: Andrew E. Neuenburg (chairman), Ida E. Logan (vice-chairman), Kasson Avery, Ada S. Chaplin, Ella McElligott, Alice L. Meussdorffer, James A. Morgan, Charles Spenner, Catherine S. Tubby, Oliver G. Tubby.

A question concerning pack outfits, brought up by Norman Livermore, Jr., was referred to the High Sierra Trails Committee.

A resolution was adopted expressing the regret of the Board at the death on November 18 of Judge Walter Fry, who aided in the establishment of Sequoia National Park, became its superintendent in 1914, and was United States Commissioner in the park for many years. A motion was passed that a memorial be included in the next magazine number of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

WILLIAM E. COLBY, *Secretary*

## Anza Desert State Park

It is gratifying to know that partly through efforts of the Sierra Club and its members, the Anza State Park has been enlarged to nearly half a million acres. Under the chairmanship of Arthur B. Johnson, the State Parks Committee of the Southern California Chapter succeeded in raising funds which were sent to the State Park Commission, to be included among the other contributions toward the cost of completing the filing upon the desired areas.

The State Parks Commission took a steady

and valuable part in backing this enlargement in other ways, as a great deal of opposition came from San Diego persons who renewed their efforts to block the Park. They finally were persuaded to withdraw their protest on the condition that about 22,000 acres in scattered locations, possibly suited to agriculture, were not included. The State will be permitted to transfer the filing fees to other equivalent acreage within the boundaries of the grant.

H. T. P.

## Ski Mountaineering—A Manual and a Course

The National Ski Association has authorized publication of a ski-mountaineering manual as part of its contribution to civilian coordination with National Defense. Bestor Robinson, former vice-president of the Association, also chairman of the Civilian Advisory Board on Equipment and Technique, has presented to the Army that ski-mountaineering procedure which has been developed in the West, largely in the Sierra Club, and the Army has determined that this procedure shall be followed for ski-troop training. Robinson has organized a committee, consisting of Sierra Club ski mountaineers, which is compiling the manual. This will serve as a guide to

American ski organizations in civilian training, to provide a nucleus for ski and mountaineering troops.

The material is well in hand, needs final organization, editing, and publication. Chapters of the book are as follows:

The Ski-Mountaineering Test. By Einar Nilsson.  
Equipment. By Richard M. Leonard.  
Food. By Dr. Joel Hildebrand and Alex Hildebrand.

Touring Technique. By David R. Brower.

Camping. By Bestor Robinson.

Map and Compass. By Richard M. Leonard.

Snowcraft. By Alex Hildebrand.

First Aid. By Dr. H. Stewart Kimball.

Speed is essential if the manual is to serve its

purpose—a purpose the value of which has been determined by the Army, the National Ski Association, the Commonwealth Club section on Forests and Recreation, the Sierra Club. The committee hopes to see the manual published in January.

D. R. B.

### *The Course*

Courses in ski mountaineering will be given at various locations under the auspices of the Sierra Club and will be open, with certain restrictions, to the public. The purposes of the course are to increase the winter use of the mountains, to further the development of winter mountaineering technique, and to train skiers who might be of assistance in civilian defense of mountain areas, or who may be interested in joining the U. S. Army winter warfare troops. The course, based on the manual, will cover the knowledge required for the Ski Mountaineering Test. This test is well known to the Army's 87th Infantry Mountain Regiment (Reinforced) and is a recognized recommendation for men of military age who are interested in getting into this mountaineering regiment. Attendance of such men is particularly solicited. Attendance of women and of men under 16 and over 45 may have to be restricted if the course is overcrowded.

The number and exact location of these courses will depend somewhat on the interest shown. It is at present contemplated, however, to give concurrently courses in the East Bay District, in San Francisco, and at Norden. The complete course will consist of seven evening sessions, given weekly, in each location, and in two overnight week-end ski-mountaineering trips. So far as possible special equipment, such as tents, knapsacks, and stoves required for these trips, will be issued on loan to those taking the trips for the duration of the trip. No fees will be charged other than minor assessments to cover such

items as food for the trips. No one will be permitted to take the courses unless he has some previous skiing knowledge. However, it is not necessary that those attending the evening sessions be proficient skiers providing they seriously intend to improve their skiing abilities during the coming season to reach approximately the equivalent of third class. Copies of third-class and of the ski-mountaineering tests will be given out at the first session of the course to enable those attending to judge of their own ability. Attendance on the tours will be restricted to those with approximately third-class ability.

The importance of troop mobility has only recently been appreciated in this country for winter fighting conditions. The success with which the Russians have recently been using against the Germans the knowledge gained in their Finnish war has given great emphasis to the importance of winter warfare troops capable of moving and camping under freezing conditions. The 87th Infantry is developing and expanding winter troop technique. The National Ski Association, the California Ski Association, and the Sierra Club are endeavoring to assist in every way possible in this development of winter mountaineering technique. Civilians can assist in national defense by learning and spreading the knowledge of this technique. Men who may be drafted, or who wish to volunteer, will be particularly suitable material for the Mountain Regiment after they complete the course.

The subjects of the evening sessions will be based upon the ski-mountaineering manual. The sessions will start at Clair Tappaan Lodge on January 10, and in Berkeley and San Francisco about ten days later. Basic first-aid training—the standard Red Cross first-aid course—should be obtained, but not necessarily concurrently, by all those attending this course. The skiing course will only cover special first-aid knowledge required by

the winter particularly first-aid of transport

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the winter mountaineer, a review of the particularly important phases of the standard first-aid knowledge, and a review of methods of transporting the injured.

The lecture courses will be held under the supervision of Alexander Hildebrand, 500 Coventry Road, Berkeley, LANDscape 52131. The weekly overnight ski tours will be under the supervision of David R. Brower, University Press, University of California, Berkeley. First tour will be to Ostrander Lake,

January 17-18. Other camping trips will follow each week end, either to Castle Peak, Desolation Valley, Ostrander Lake, or Pear Lake, with a one-week trip planned for the Easter vacation period. Further information regarding these courses will be printed in the local papers and will be sent to local ski and mountaineering organizations, but the above individuals can be consulted either by phone, or preferably by postcard, as required.

ALEX HILDEBRAND

## National Park Touring Huts Ready

*Ostrander Lake Ski Hut.*—Skiers who have already enjoyed the beautiful tour to Ostrander Lake—either by way of the six-mile Horizon Ridge Trail or the nine-mile route from Badger Pass by way of Merced Crest—will be glad to know that the ski hut there is to be operated again this season on the same basis as last year.

Built by the National Park Service for the convenience and use of skiers, the hut will be operated by a representative from the Yosemite Park and Curry Company for those skiers who do not have the equipment or the desire for independent ski touring. At the rate of one dollar per meal and one dollar per night, the skier may taste the joys of the ski trail without having to carry more than the minimum of day-touring equipment. The hardier, who carry their own equipment and food, may use the resources of the hut without charge. Sleeping accommodations are available for fifteen men and eight women. Reserve mattresses can be laid on the floors to increase the numbers to twenty-one men and sixteen women. Advance reservations should be made through the Park Superintendent or the ranger at Badger Pass. The concessionaire's representative will be at the hut from February 1.

It is expected that snow conditions will

permit travel to the hut by some time in January, with the snow necessary to cover the Horse Ridge talus probably accumulating by early February.

The Touring Committee has already scheduled a mid-January trip to Ostrander Lake, and will likely plan another for a later time. It is hoped, however, that Sierra Club skiers will not feel limited to the organized tours.

*Pear Lake Ski Cabin.*—New this year, a ski cabin at Pear Lake, at the head of the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, is Sequoia National Park's contribution to ski touring. It has been erected by the National Park Service, and offers complete equipment—with the exception of bedding—for ten people. A stock of food has been stored at the cabin by the Sequoia Ski Club; a price list is posted, the skiers may use the supplies and reimburse the club.

The Giant Forest Ranger will be in charge of arrangements for accommodations, and users of the cabin are to check in and out with him.

The cabin is at an elevation of 9500 feet, and is reached by six miles of trail from the Wolverton Ski Area, elevation 7200 feet. Only qualified cross-country skiers should attempt the trip.

C. E. M.

## The Custodian Looks at LeConte Memorial Lodge

The LeConte Memorial Lodge has passed an altogether successful rejuvenating season. The lodge was opened for the Memorial Day Sierra Club outing by Albert Duhme, and was in his charge until my arrival the tenth of June. During the three and one-half months the lodge was open, its register drew 3335 signatures from all over the world, the number, even so, representing less than one-third of our guests, as hundreds who attended the new series of evening programs did not use it.

Evening programs were held regularly three nights a week, with extra programs when the park attendance demanded it. On Thursday nights the ranger-naturalists gave illustrated lectures on various mountaineering, natural history, and geological subjects. On Friday nights a lecture on Sierra Club climbing activities brought out the recreational value of the sport, and tempered the spectacular aspect with the rock-climbing section's fine safety record. This lecture was usually given by Jules Eichorn; I substituted when ranger duty made him unavailable. The talk was illustrated with the 1936 motion picture of climbing the Cathedral Spires, a copy of which was loaned to the lodge for the summer by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company.

Thanks must be given to Virginia Adams for her time and for the use of her motion picture projector and screen, and to the Park Administration: Mr. Merriam, past superintendent, for his quick action in supplying a paved parking area; Mr. McKown; Mr. Kittredge, the new superintendent; Mr.

Brockman; Mr. Beatty; and the ranger-naturalists for their kind cooperation. On Sunday evenings Mr. Kirk Torney supplied classical and popular recorded music which was much enjoyed by the hundreds who attended these concerts.

The lodge lends itself well to small gatherings; everyone who lectured there expressed pleasure at the fine audience contact possible, questions being asked and answered as the speech progressed. More complete use of these facilities should be made in the future. In the lodge we have a perfect opportunity for the club to present its fine ideals before a receptive audience through talks and visual "education."

Numerous changes were made in the lodge furnishings as well as in the program. Use has been made of one of the side wings as a map and rock-climbing room where climbing equipment loaned to the lodge by the government was on display. The circle around the fireplace was enhanced by a low round table on which current magazines were spread, and in September four large tables were obtained, to be placed at each of the windows. New interior woodwork above the windows has given a more finished appearance to the building and provides a place from which to hang draperies.

In the 1941 season plans only began to mature. The LeConte Memorial, like the man to whom it is dedicated, has had a great and useful past; it will also have a great and useful future.

EDWARD H. ANDERSON, *Custodian*

## Ski Pins Still Available

The newly designed Sierra Club ski test pins are still available to Club members in good standing, upon presentation of duly signed test certificate, at the Sierra Club office, or may be obtained from Haven Jorgensen at Tappaan Lodge, or Paul Flinchbaugh, Los

Angeles. The price per pin is 60c. The pin remains the property of the Club, and as such can be recalled. When a skier advances to a higher class he must turn in his old badge (which has no turn-in value). There is no charge for the first class badge.

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## Reviews

*American Ski Annual*.<sup>1</sup>—As most skiers have probably heard before, the Russo-Finnish campaign demonstrated the military importance of skiing. As many skiers now doubtless realize, the strategic value of mobility in snow-covered terrain is graphically portrayed on the Russian front as steppe by steppe (to borrow a phrase from *Life*), the country with that mobility is making it pay.

Our own government officials have not been unaware of the importance of cold-climate mobility. What have they done about it?

The background of this question is ably reported by Fred H. McNeil in the *American Ski Annual* for 1941-42. In an article, "Skiing and National Defense," McNeil describes the wide-awake role that the National Ski Association has played in the present emergency. Sierra Club readers will be pleased to find that the technique of winter mountaineering that has been extensively furthered in the club, appreciably through the efforts of Vice-President Bestor Robinson, also takes an important role.

Too, there are many other fine articles of varied interest, but we'll let you discover these for yourself. The *Annual* is now in its eighth year and getting better every year. It contains 256 pages of text, and another 56 pages of interesting advertising, itself a valuable index to the increasing importance of the magazine. The arrangement of the latest issue is much the same as before, with a main section of articles of general interest, followed by many pages of progress reports from the several regions of the Association, together with tabulations of results of important ski competition of the past year. With this issue the editors or publishers chose to experiment with the typography, but not with altogether happy results. Reproduction

of the photographs continues to be poor—something hard to understand in a country with so many fine photographers, printers, and engravers. Experimentation is a fine thing, and we should perhaps not be too critical so long as the format of the current issue is considered just an experiment—and a lesson. Experiments or no, any ardent skier is making a mistake if he overlooks the value of keeping a complete set.

*Appalachia*.<sup>2</sup>—An outstanding feature of a number which takes its readers from fold-boat navigation of the Colorado to ski camping in the Tetons, and from climbing in Bavaria to bird study in New England, is the sixteen-page monograph on "Mountaineering Weather." Clear diagrams and illustrative photographs help in giving the mountaineer a basis for understanding the language of the weather expert or for essaying his own weather forecasting.

Of particular interest to rock-climbers is the account of a fifty-four-foot vertical fall, successfully checked without injury to the falling man. Descending from the Devils Monument, in Wisconsin, the last of a party of three fell when a large piece of the rotten sandstone pulled out. The belayer was pulled out of position but was held by the third man, who was anchoring him; the belayer was the only one injured, suffering a cut on his head and a severe rope burn. We concur in the opinion of the writer, who concludes, "It is heartening to know that the reward of constant care in belaying can be the saving of a leader, even when he has a bad fall."

*Winter Mountaineering*.<sup>3</sup>—This well-written booklet furnishes a brief manual of

<sup>1</sup>Stephen Daye Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1941.

<sup>2</sup>Bulletin of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, VII:12, December, 1941.

<sup>3</sup>"Winter Mountaineering, with Special Reference to Sierra Nevada Conditions," by L. S. Smith. Mimeographed publication of the U. S. Forest Service, Region V, 760 Market Street, San Francisco. 36 pages.

the equipment and technique for winter mountaineering with a bibliography of two pages and an excellent contribution by Milton Hildebrand on winter rescue methods. Recommendations with respect to technique and equipment can be concurred in almost entirely. The only defect of the manual appears in regard to some of the material on first aid. Mr. Smith does not attempt to write as a medical expert and therefore quotes liberally from many other sources. Although

he comments, "Rubbing with snow is not now recommended," he nevertheless gives a long quotation on treatment of freezing by rubbing with snow. Unfortunately, that treatment has already been publicized too widely without adequate comment. Much of the quotation is excellent and justifiable, but other parts should be omitted, or adequate comment by competent authority given to indicate present-day objections to such treatment.

R. M. L.

### Tamalpais Guide Criticized\*

Good guide books to points of scenic or historical interest are eminently desirable as a real means to promote the proper appreciation and enjoyment by the people. Hence it was with keen anticipation that I first examined the brochure on the Mount Tamalpais State Park written by H. Howe Wagner and recently published by the State of California as the first of the California Historical Survey Series. Although it concerns particularly the state park area, much of what is written on the natural and human history applies to the entire Tamalpais area.

While the historical aspects of the account seem to be handled adequately enough, this cannot be said of the parts dealing with the natural history of the region. After reading the section dealing with the trees of Mount Tamalpais, one might expect to see on the mountain almost any California tree, whether from coastal grove or Sierran forest. No fewer than fifteen misstatements are made about the trees and shrubs "in this enchanted area of primeval trees and vast arena of flora . . . set aside to preserve nature in its primitive state"; and not one of the legends for the four photographs of plants that are included is without a botanical or orthographic error. The fact that a correct though brief account of the trees and more conspicuous

shrubs and herbs of Mount Tamalpais is later quoted from the writings of Miss Alice Eastwood does not in any way lessen the grievous misstatements that precede, but rather, over-emphasizes them. For this sort of thing to happen in the San Francisco Bay area is inexcusable, since expert help would have been gladly furnished by botanists at the University of California, Stanford University or the California Academy of Sciences; and correct data could even have been obtained from the Sierra Club Nature Study Notes on "The Indigenous Trees of Marin County." It is most unfortunate that so much misinformation should be presented in a guide book printed as "an historical monograph" by the State of California and issued with the particular approbation of Governor Culbert L. Olson. In future issues of this series, we trust that all statements requiring specialized knowledge, whether scientific or historical, will be checked by competent authorities before they are offered to the people in this "effort to promote understanding, enjoyment and wise use of our natural resources."

JOHN THOMAS HOWELL

\*Mount Tamalpais State Park, Marin County. By H. Howe Wagner. [No. 1 of] Calif. Hist. Surv. Series, Historic Landmarks, Monuments, and State Parks, edited by Clark Wissler, written under the auspices of Work Projects Administration, sponsored by State of Calif. Dept. of Nat. Resources and Div. of Parks. California State Printing Office, Sacramento, 1941. 78 pages, 33 illustrations, 5 maps. Price, 75 cents.

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## 1942 Sierra Club Ski Patrol Organized

The northern section of the Sierra Club ski patrol is well on the way to another season of promoting ski safety on the Sierra Club slopes. In cooperation with the National Ski Patrol System, the club section will carry out in the Donner Summit area the twofold purpose of preventing accidents and rendering first aid to those who are injured. All skiers are asked to contribute to the safety of the sport by cooperating fully with the patrolmen.

Members of the Sierra Club patrol have passed the Standard First Aid course of the American Red Cross, and in addition have attended two sessions of a "brush up" course, with special emphasis on the diplomatic approach to accident prevention and transportation of injured over snow. Glenn Weber, experimenting with portable first-aid equipment, has displayed several items which will help the rescue work. The number of patrolmen is large, so that the exacting duties may be equitably shared during the season: Richard Felter (C), Dorothy Mortimer (Secy.), Kenneth Adam, Raffi Bedayan, David R. Brower, Richard N. Burnley, Edmund S. Chambers, Maurice Curtis, Roland Goggin, George Greves, Charles Hanks, Alex Hildebrand, Roger Hildebrand, Robert Horonjeff, Haven Jorgensen, H. Stewart Kimball, Doris F. Leonard, Fritz Lippmann, Charlotte E. Mauk, L. Bruce Meyer, Robert J. Miller, Hans Ostwald, Rolf Pundt, Louis Reno, Ruben Schneider, John Stokely, Glenn Weber, Richard Weber.

In addition, there are many club members who are also National Ski Patrolmen, and

will aid on the Sierra Club slopes—indeed, on any ski slopes they may be using—when the occasion arises.

### First Aid Room

Started last year, and brought near to perfection by last fall's work parties, the first aid room at Clair Tappaan Lodge is well equipped for any eventuality. The Ski Patrol and Medical committees have collaborated on its organization, aided, in securing necessary equipment and materials, by a ten-cent fee added to the cost of each lodge reservation.

This winter skiers using the adjoining A.S.U.C. lodge will contribute toward the expense of maintaining necessary materials in the room, and, under the direction of their ski patrol unit, that of the club, and the Medical Committee, will share in its use.

Skiers who have glanced at the long list of patrolmen, and who have considered the elaborate steps that have been taken to care for ski injuries, may have some misgivings; they may compare the patrolmen to vultures who gleefully anticipate tragedy, the first aid room to a morgue. Although the first- and second-aid crews don't admit that anything like this *is* true, they well might *hope* so. For if all skiers—"schuss-pussers" especially—would approach their favorite sport with just a mild foreboding, the biggest hurdle in accident prevention would be safely passed.

Not, however, that they would deny anyone the pleasure of belonging to the "Broken Bone Club," emblem of which is worn by some of the very best skiers.

A. H. AND D. R. B.

## Ski Tests Changed

The following additions to the California Ski Association uniform ski tests as printed in the *Bulletin*, December, 1940 (reprints available), will serve to bring these tests into conformity with those adopted by the Na-

tional Ski Association. Requirements added to the tests indicated are:

*Fourth Class.*—Herringbone climb for fifty feet on slope of approximately twenty degrees.

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*Third Class.*—Step turn to right and left at speed of approximately fifteen miles per hour.

*Second Class.*—Four linked christianias as before, but on a slope of at least twenty-five degrees.

Long-radius, high-speed (tempo) turn to right and left at a speed of 25-35 miles per hour, depending upon snow conditions.

*First Class* (for touring).—No person shall be eligible unless he shall have passed the ski-mountaineering test.

\* \* \*

*Note.*—As a member of the northern California section of the ski test committee, and with approval of Einar Nilsson, chairman, I should like to submit some tentative instructions to Sierra Club judges with respect to the changed portions of the tests. What do Sierra Club ski experts think of them?

(1) That in order to prevent early acquisition of the bad habit of lifting skis on ordinary turns, third-class candidates be encouraged not to practice the step turn until they have mastered the stem and christie.

(2) That the skating stride, supplanted in position in the national tests by the high-speed turn, remain part of Sierra Club requirements, inasmuch as mastery of this stride is the second-class equivalent of the step turn, with additional uses in touring.

(3) That not too much emphasis be placed on perfect execution of the "tempo" turn, inasmuch as this turn, though beautiful to watch, is designed more for racing over known terrain than for safe descent of the unfamiliar terrain and snow conditions the tourist most often finds himself in.

Clearly, to demonstrate mastery of touring, which is the ability a second-class tourist must seek, the skier must have control at reasonably high speeds in many snows. I have always thought the plain and simple stem-christiania could provide this control when it is properly executed. To require that the second-class skier also must maintain his speed throughout a turn of long radius seems to me to be an unnecessary refinement. Wouldn't it be better to restore the Telemark?

D. R. B.

## New Test Judges Named

The Sierra Club, as a member of the California Ski Association, which in turn is a member of the National Ski Association, is obliged to conform to the rules of these associations in regard to tests. For this reason all judges are advised to study new uniform ski tests as issued by the National Ski Association and to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the various parts. The instructions to judges, in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* for December, 1940, should also be read and followed carefully. Extra copies are available. The tests outlined there are minimum requirements, to which additional parts are added by the Sierra Club.

*Fourth Class.*—Raffi Bedayan, Torcom Bedayan, Frank Bender, Larry Burnley, Maurice J. Curtis, Dave Gray, Oliver Kehrlein, Phil von Lubken, Charlotte E. Mauk,

George Rudolph, Ruben Schneider, John Stokely, Dick Weber, Glenn L. Weber, Sidney Weitz, Edward Yeazell. *Southern California:* Dean Ashcraft, Bob Baker, Bill Davies, Walter Draeger, Fred Eaton, Hessel Fremstad, Howard Gates, Ray Ingwersen, Bob MacConaghy, Bill Rice.

*Third Class.*—David R. Brower, Dick Burnley, Edgar Cerf, Ben Cummings, George Dondero, Harold Dondero, Art Fawkes, Charles Hanks, Jim Harkins, Richard M. Leonard, Hans Ostwald, Bestor Robinson, Charles W. Shepherd, Sharman Wall. *Southern California:* Robert K. Brinton, Nathan Clark, Muir Dawson, J. Paul Flinchbaugh, Roy Gorin, Howard Koster, Lester LaVelle, Earl Merritt, Larry Thackwell.

*Second Class* (approved by California Ski

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Association).—Fritz E. Baldauf, Lewis F. Clark, Alexander Hildebrand, Joel H. Hildebrand, Milton Hildebrand, Roger Hildebrand, Einar Nilsson. *Southern California*: Glen Dawson, Homer Fuller.

*Ski Mountaineering*.—David R. Brower,

Lewis F. Clark, Alexander Hildebrand, Joel H. Hildebrand, Milton Hildebrand, Richard M. Leonard, Einar Nilsson, Bestor Robinson. *First Aid Examiners*: Dick Felter, Stewart Kimball, Doris Leonard, Ruben Schneider.

## Chapter Executive Committees—1941-2

*Loma Prieta*: Don M. Woods (Chairman), Horace Overacker (Vice-Chairman), Eleanor C. Layman (Secretary), Hermann L. Horn (Treasurer), Jessie M. Alford, Harvey Dowling, Dorothy Markwad.

*Mother Lode*: Thomas H. Jukes (Chairman), Carl F. Hogue (Vice-Chairman), Margaret Klausner (Secretary), A. C. Gerould (Treasurer), Auguste Fruge, William A. Sherrill, Cornelia Visman.

*Riverside*: D. B. Difani (Chairman), Forrest H. Keck (Vice-Chairman), Robert J. Hallock (Secretary), Sylvia Campiglia

(Treasurer), John G. Gabbert, Doris P. Rowlands, A. J. Twogood.

*San Francisco Bay*: Robert R. Schallenger (Chairman), Raffi Bedayan (Vice-Chairman), Helena V. Nelson (Secretary), Edgar Cerf (Treasurer), Suzanne P. Allen, Charlotte E. Mauk, Ray E. Montrose, Barbara C. Norris, Cyrus Washburn.

*Southern California*: A. E. Baldwin (Chairman), Dean S. Curtis (Vice-Chairman), Marion Jones (Secretary), Pat Carmical (Treasurer), Chester L. Errett, Robert MacConaghy, Andrew O. Porter, Ethel S. Van Degrift, Lenore L. Winter.

## Winter Sports Committee Appointments

The committee is, as heretofore, a coordinating committee consisting of chairmen of subcommittees, each subchairman appointing such members as he may require to get his subcommittee to function properly. [Although the deadline was extended one week several additional appointments were not received.—Ed.]

*Chairman*: Bestor Robinson.

*Representative of Clair Tappaan Lodge*: Lewis F. Clark.

*Local Touring*: Glenn Weber (C), Maurice Curtis, Haven Jorgensen, Rolf Pundt, Louis Reno.

*Peter Grubb Hut*: Charlotte E. Mauk (C), Arthur G. Davey, Margaret Klausner, Ruben Schneider.

*Tests*: Einar Nilsson (C), F. E. Baldauf, David R. Brower, Lewis F. Clark, Alex Hil-

debrand, Milton Hildebrand, P. H. von Lubken. *Southern California*: J. Paul Flinchbaugh.

*Ski Camping*: David R. Brower and Alex Hildebrand (co-chairmen), Kenneth Adam, Raffi Bedayan, Edmund S. Chambers, Lewis F. Clark, Richard H. Felter, Charles W. Hanks, Richard M. Leonard, Fritz Lippmann, Einar Nilsson, Ruben Schneider.

*Medical*: Dr. H. Stewart Kimball, Richard H. Felter, Doris F. Leonard, Ruben Schneider, Dr. Virginia Wright.

*Ski Patrol*: Richard H. Felter (Sierra Club); Ruben Schneider (C.S.A. sectional chief for Donner Summit area).

*Other subchairmen*: Joel H. Hildebrand (Technical), Oliver Kehrlein (Publicity), George Dondero (Racing), John Stokely (Equipment), Richard Burnley (Ski Tow).



